

Amendments to the Specification:

With reference to the Replacement Sheets (for pages 1-5a) and the originally filed sheets (for pages 6 and 7), please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title of the invention, please insert the new heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, after the second full paragraph please insert the new heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, please amend the third and fourth full paragraphs as follows:

Another embodiment defined in claim 2, wherein the displacement and/or guide mechanism is disposed in a groove-shaped recess in a tool holder mechanism and the recess extends into the press beam and into a table top of the press table, is of advantage because it also enables displacement and/or guide mechanisms of relatively large dimensions to be accommodated.

Also of advantage is another embodiment ~~defined in claim 3~~, wherein the recess extends approximately across the maximum possible tool length, because it enables whatever bending tools are retained in the tool holder mechanism to be fully recorded or detected.

Page 3, please amend the paragraph that bridges pages 3 and 4 as follows:

In another embodiment, a hollow compartment closed towards the outside is provided in the press beam and in the press table. As a result ~~of the embodiment defined in claim 4~~, the displacement and/or guide mechanism or at least its transport element and the detection device are safely housed to protect them from outside influences or the effects of forces and the pulley blocks disposed on the end-face or distal end regions of the press table merely guide the endless transport element together with the detection device in the interior of the machine frame.

Page 4, please amend the first through sixth full paragraphs as follows:

In a further embodiment, a plate-type cover element is provided between the hollow compartment and the groove-shaped recess in the tool holder mechanism. As a result of the ~~advantageous embodiment defined in claim 5~~, dirt is prevented from getting to the transport element and detection device disposed underneath the bending tools.

Advantage is also to be had from an embodiment ~~defined in claim 6~~ in which the detection device is coupled with the control and/or evaluation device via a line connection so as to transmit signals, because a reliable signal and data transmission can be achieved from the detection device to the control device and vice versa and the risk of outside influences is low or can be ~~minimised~~minimized using simple technical measures, such as screening elements, for example.

Also of advantage is an embodiment ~~defined in claim 7~~ in which the line connection is provided in the form of a trailing cable system disposed within the displacement and/or guide range of the detection device, since it permits a relatively extensive displacement range within which a reliable signal and data transmission can be set up whilst requiring very little in the way of cabling and wiring.

Of particular advantage ~~are the features defined in claim 8~~ is an embodiment wherein a maximum detection distance between the displaceably mounted detection device and an information carrier of an adjacent bending tool is shorter than a smallest possible distance between two information carriers of bending tools lined up in a row adjacent to one another without any gaps, since these features provide a simple means of ensuring that the respective data or codes from the plurality of information carriers are received or picked up consecutively in sequence at the detection device. The risk of faulty detection is therefore ~~minimised~~minimized and this approach is also conducive to detecting the sequence or disposition of the individual tools.

Also of advantage is an embodiment ~~defined in claim 9~~ in which the displacement and/or guide mechanism is a flexible transport element to which the detection device is attached, since it

enables longer displacement paths or tool lengths to be bridged without difficulty and makes for an inexpensive displacement and/or guide mechanism.

A variant of ~~one of the embodiments defined in claim 10~~ in which the flexible transport element is guided round two mutually spaced pulley blocks or winding spools is of advantage because it is based on a simple mechanical structure, by means of which the detection device can be moved across extensive distances with sufficient guiding accuracy, given the dimensions of the detection device.

Page 4, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

An alternative embodiment is ~~defined in claim 11~~ characterized in that the displacement and/or guide mechanism has a guide element with a guide carriage relatively displaceable thereto, on which the detection device is disposed. [[t]]The advantage of this is that it secures a relatively precise forced guiding action for the detection device along the possible tool length.

Page 5, please amend the first through sixth full paragraphs as follows:

Also of particular advantage is an optional embodiment ~~defined in claim 12~~ wherein the displacement and/or guide mechanism has a displacement drive connected to the control device, since it enables the detection device to be at least partially or predominantly automated.

Advantageously, the displacement drive can be reversed in its direction of rotation or motion.

~~As a result of the optional embodiment defined in claim 13,~~ a bi-directional displacement of the detection device can be automated. Furthermore, by designing a cable link accordingly, twisting in the cable which is likely to cause damage can be ruled out, in addition to which, the individual information carriers can be scanned twice or more within a relatively short time.

~~As a result of the~~ In another embodiment defined in claim 14 wherein the information carriers are transponders that can be detected contactlessly or without being touched, the demands placed on the displacement and guide device are low and the occurrence of wear due to components rubbing or sliding against one another is ruled out.

~~The virtually maintenance-free electronic information carrier defined in claim 15 is of advantage in terms of keeping costs down.~~

Advantageously, the transponders can be inductively or electromagnetically coupled with the detection device via corresponding transmitter and/or receiver devices for electromagnetic waves. As a result ~~of the embodiment defined in claim 16~~, at least the communication and transmission run for information and data signals between the detection device and the information carrier can be of a contactless or wireless design. It is also preferable if electric operating power for the passive information carrier is transmitted wirelessly between the detection device and the information carriers via these transmitter and/or receiver devices or alternatively via separate transmitter and/or receiver units. Furthermore, information carriers of this type can also be read or detected without any difficulty, even if the guiding or displacement accuracy of the displacement and/or guide device is low.

Another possible embodiment ~~defined in claim 17~~, wherein the detection device is able to intervene by reading and writing to a non-volatile memory device of the information carriers or transponders, is of particular advantage because changing data and cumulative historical data can be stored via the detection device in the memory device as and when necessary, which means that the information carriers will always contain up to date information and data.

Page 5, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 5a as follows:

Another possible embodiment ~~is defined in claim 18~~ characterized in that the information carriers have a passive position detection element, the advantage of which is that, although simple means are used, the relative position of bending tools within the possible length within which tools can be mounted is determined sufficiently accurately. This advantageously means that there is no need to make any adjustments or modifications to the bending tools or position-detecting elements.

Page 5a, please amend the first through seventh full paragraphs as follows:

~~The~~In another embodiment, the detection device has an inductive sensor, in particular a Hall-effect sensor, for detecting a metal screen or another metal element on or in the region of an information carrier. This embodiment defined in claim 20 enables contactless detection of the presence and/or position of a bending tool, using inexpensive but reliable means.

In accordance with still another embodiment of the invention wherein the detection device or control and/or evaluation device has a distance measuring device that measures the displacement path travelled by the detection device~~As a result of the embodiment defined in claim 21, the instantaneous position of a specific tool within the possible tool length can be detected, for example from a defined tool initial point, so that it can be evaluated and taken into account in the subsequent sequences to be run.~~

In a further embodiment, the displacement and/or guide mechanism is a displacement drive and has a stepper motor connected to the control and/or evaluation device for determining the displacement path and/or controlling the displacement path. A multi-use or multi-functional use of the displacement drive is thus ~~made possible by the embodiment defined in claim 22, namely for detecting the position of various bending tools on the one hand and as a displacement drive for automating the displaceable detection device, on the other.~~

~~As a result of the embodiment defined in claim 23 in which the flexible transport element has at least one electric conductor track which has an electrical connection to the detection device,~~ there is no need for trailing cable systems between the displaceable detection device and a stationary machine part, which also means that a reliable hard-wired signal transmission is possible from the displaceable detection device to a fixed or stationary point of the production unit, even if there is limited space.

~~Electric signals can be reliably and simply transmitted from the transport element to the control device and/or vice versa as a result of the embodiment defined in claim 24 and/or 25.~~

~~As a result of the features defined in claim 26, a reliable electrical isolation is obtained between the transport elements and the machine frame using simple means.~~

Finally, an embodiment ~~defined in claim 27~~ in which the displacement and/or guide mechanism has a spindle drive on which the detection device is mounted and is displaceable in two directions along the possible tool length by a reversible rotating motion of a threaded spindle of the spindle drive, is of advantage because it guarantees a slip-free displacing motion of the detection device along the requisite tool length and simple technical means are used to define and monitor a displacement path of the detection device relative to the tool length and relative to a defined zero or initial point.

Page 6, before line 1, please add the new heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 7, before line 1, please add the new heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS